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The People.

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VOL. VII.—NO. 50. NEW YORK, MARCH 13, 1898. PRICE 3 CENTS.

GUARD THE BALLOT!

Further Instances of the Conspiracy to Disfranchise the Working Class.

IF NOT BALLOTS, BULLETS.

Review of the Primary "Reform" Laws that are Just Now Being Proposed in Several States of the Union— Also of the New York Proposed Biennial Legislature Constitutional Amendment—All Underhanded Ways to Pilfer the Ballot out of the Workers' Hands —Silver Bug South Carolina and Mississippi Have Already Disfranchised the Workers, Now the Gold Bug North is at Work to the Same End.

More than once has attention been called in these colums to the signs that denote a positive and organized attempt on the part of the capitalist class to deprive the working class of the ballot. More signs are coming in.

These fresh signs are the proposed primary "reform" bills that are appearing in New York and other States, and the New York bill for biennial sessions.

These primary bills are so constructed that the secrecy of the ballot, considered to be necessary if the workingman is to have a free expression of political convictions, is to a great extent impaired.

In the first place, only those workingmen who hang on the skirts of capitalist parties can with impunity participate in the proposed primaries. In such primaries no one is to participate, who does not openly enter himself in the registration lists as a supporter of the party in whose primaries he wishes to take part. Accordingly, if the workingman wants to participate in a labor party, he must announce so publicly, or that party can have no ticket in the field. It follows from this that the purpose of the ballot is to all intents and purposes demolished. Unless workers are ready to run the risks, that a secret ballot is intended to protect them against, the workingmen can have no ticket of their own choice to vote for; they are placed to the alternative of not voting at all, or of voting for parties they don't want, there being no others in the field. What is this but disfranchisement?

In the second place, the proposed primary laws fix the hours of enrollment so that they cover to a large extent the time the workingman is at work, and, as primary enrollment days are not holidays, the capitalist class has full swing and the working class is hampered. When a small army is confronted by a large one, it is a strategic move for the small one to put itself in a defile; in that way the numbers of the larger army that are in excess of the smaller are virtually eliminated from the battle; only a force equal to that of the smaller one protected by the defile is able to oppose it. The battle becomes more equal. This is what the provision amounts to that limits the primary registration time to virtually working hours. The workingmen are the overwhelming majority. The capitalist class wishes to reduce the fighting size of this army; its primary provision accomplishes for it what the protection of a defile accomplishes for a small army fighting against a larger one. This may be shrewd tactics, but they should be understood by the workers.

Finally, there comes the proposed biennial bill of New York. According to it the Legislature is to meet only once every two years, and this will necessitate a change in the election of Assemblymen. Now they are elected every year; if the biennial plan goes through, they will be elected only once every two years; which is the same as to say that every other year the workingmen will be disfranchised from voting for Assemblymen. The capitalists could not vote either, 'tis true. But there again the defile strategy comes in. As things are going on, the capitalists fear every year to have seats taken away from them. If the battle can be waged at longer intervals, then their small forces would every other year be equal to the larger ones of the workers, in that the latter could not conquer them, not being allowed a chance to fight.

The straight forward disfranchisement of the working class was attempted before, but had to be abandoned. Its openness raised too loud a hue and cry. Since then the campaign to disfranchise has been conducted in the above surreptitious ways, to wit:

The next best thing to no ballot in the workers' hands, is to diminish the opportunities to wield the ballot. Instead of an election every year, elections are to be made few and far between. In pursuit of this conspiracy the terms of offices are being made longer and longer; biennial sessions of the Legislatures are coming in; and we may be ready for triennial, quadriennial, etc., Legislatures.

Again, if the ballot cannot be boldly taken from the workers, such laws may be passed as will accomplish the same thing by a back door. The primary reforms that are proposed are intended to do that. What is the difference between a disfranchised working class and a working class that nominally has the ballot, but is so hampered that it cannot set up a ticket of its own? None.

Let the working class allow themselves to be fooled and led by the nose much longer by the labor fakirs, and kept from joining the Socialist Labor party, and they will be confronted with the alternative that confronts their fellow wage-slaves in many a European country: either absolute submission and slavery, or physical uprising.

Where the ballot is silenced, the bullet must speak.

With the first issue of next April, April 3, the price of THE PEOPLE will be reduced from $1 to 50 cents a year; six months 25 cents; 3 months 15 cents; single copies 2 cents.

CANADA'S MAIDEN VOTE.

She Wheels in Line With the International S. L. P. Movement.

LONDON, Ont., March 7.—Canada now for the first time takes a place on the statistical roll of the International Socialist Labor party. At the official count in the office of the Sheriff of Middlesex (returning officer for the constituency of London, Ont.), the following vote was recorded for the candidate of the S. L. P. to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, as a result of the election in this city on March 1st, 1898.

Henry B. Ashplant (candidate of S. L. P.), 126.

The vote was distributed as follows:

	Votes.
Ward 1	13
Ward 2	12
Ward 3	31
Ward 4	17
Ward 5	38
Ward 6	15
Total	126

There are 40 sub-divisions in the 6 wards in the city, and it is one of the most significant features of the official record that the S. L. P. ticket has votes recorded in no less than 35 of the subdivisions, showing that our six days' propaganda covered the city effectively.

The vote of 126 is over three times the strength of our Section at time of nomination; and in view of the conditions under which the vote was taken (as noted in THE PEOPLE March 6th) we feel that Section London has scored a victory in Canada for the cause of the international solidarity of S. L. P. principles that can only be correctly appreciated by those who know all the truth regarding our obstacles and the nature of our opposition.

Watch it grow!

R. R. Co's. INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

One of the Schemes by Which Capitalists make their Steals.

PORT RICHMOND, L. I., March 8.—Until recently the ferry which connects this town with Bergen Point, N. J., was the property of the Pennsylvania R. R. Co. It is now owned by the Consolidated Traction Co.

The Penn. R. R. Co. has in operation an insurance department for the "benefit" of its employees. It is called the Voluntary Relief Association. Membership in it is not compulsory, but the members of it are given the preference in dull times and otherwise favored. If a member leaves the service of the company or is discharged he forfeits the premiums paid.

The employees of the ferry here were members of the association. With the sale of the ferry was severed their connection with the Penn. R. R.; consequently loss of membership in the association and forfeiture of money paid in.

Of course the ferrymen see no parallel in their "transfer" to the Consolidated Traction Co. and the sale of a chattel slave. They are "free" to "select" their own master; while the slave had no say in the matter.

All the great railroads are taking up the insurance department scheme. That of the B. & O. is, I am told, compulsory. The companies not only find this scheme an excellent thing to keep the wage slaves docile, but a paying investment as well. This is about the way it works: A man is insured say for $1,000; during the year the company keeps out of his wages say $25, half of which is turned over to the insurance company, with which the railroad company does business; the other half the railroad company keeps as payment for "collecting." The insurance company then gives the railroad company a $1,250 policy; the railroad company in turn writes a policy of its own to the insured for $1,000, so that when a member dies the railroad company makes $250.

Great are the schemes by which the capitalist makes his steals!

ONE OF THE "INSURED."

THE NEW SPIRIT.

Events in New Bedford that Mark a New Era.

Gompers Turns up Again, is Again Challenged and Runs off once More—Is now Known in New Bedford as "Mr. Go"—Cheers upon Cheers for the S. L. P. and the S. T. & L. A.—Hickey's Work.

NEW BEDFORD, March 5.—The comrades here are full of joy. That for which we have long worked is finally accomplished: the masses of our New Bedford working class are at last leavened by the spirit of New Trade Unionism and of the Socialist Labor party. Let me sum up the situation.

About three weeks ago, Mr. Samuel Gompers came here with intent to capture us for his pure and simple dead ship. We challenged him, and he ran away; then came the meetings addressed by Comrade De Leon and the organization of three Socialist Trade and Labor Alliances of Weavers and Spinners. The stream set in our direction. Thereupon Mr. Gompers, who now goes around here by the name of Mr. Go (you will presently see why), thought the coast clear and again turned up here. He ran right into the clutches of Comrade Hickey who is then on the grounds. We again challenged Mr. Go, and he again ran away. The first time his excuse was he had to catch a train for Pittsburg, which turned out to be false; his excuse this time was that he had to catch a train for Boston, equally false. He left the hall amidst the hootings of the big audience. As every time he had to go, he is now called "Mr. Go."

This afternoon the "Arm and Hammer" fell heavy. Between this strike and the next, pure and simpledom will have been crushed. We organized a fourth Alliance—a mixed L. A. with twenty-one men.

Comrade Hickey's last words: "The next strike in New Bedford must be conducted by the S. T. & L. A.!" was not met with applause; that was not strong enough to express the approval of the audience; it was responded to with cheer upon cheer for the Socialist Labor party and for the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance.

The occurrence was an eye-opener to all of us.

NOT GOMPERS BUT GOMPERISM.

Sunday's Mass Meeting for New Bedford Striker's in New York.

Under the auspices of the Woman's Branch, Socialist Labor Party, Section Greater New York, a mass meeting was held last Sunday in the Grand Central Palace in behalf of the New Bedford strikers. A band performed, the Liedertafel sang, and Comrades Carless, Forker and De Leon spoke. The sum of $50 was raised.

The occasion brought out clearly the attitude of the party on an important matter.

Time was when the party's feelings were turned against itself. The desire to aid the proletariat in all its struggles had caused it to be deceived by appearances and to render aid where the struggle was only seemingly against but in fact in favor of the capitalist class. Experience had shown the difference between strike and strike. Strikes that are instigated by capitalists so as to get rid of their surplus goods, strikes that are instigated by shyster lawyers to have a chance to draw up contracts to the tune of $2 a piece, strikes that are instigated by labor fakirs to get a chance to rake in dues—none of such strikes is a manifestation of the class struggle of the proletariat. They are all conducted under the banner of capital. To aid such strikes with money would be a stupidity on the part of the S. L. P. All that would thereby be accomplished would be to deprive the party of funds for agitation; it would be to throw away money; and nothing could suit the capitalists better.

The New Bedford strike, however, is a bona fide strike; the spirit that prevails there is a healthy spirit. To support such a strike with funds is proper and wise; it is a way to knock down Comperism, and Gomperism means capitalism, being a bulwark of capitalism. The Woman's Branch of Section New York justified its existence by calling a meeting for such purpose.

The English translation of Karl Marx' "Eighteenth Brumaire," that recently ran through THE PEOPLE, is now to be had bound in an elegant volume of 78 pages, with Marx' picture as frontispiece. This work is of great value. No Socialist, even though he be no student, and no student even though he be no Socialist, can afford to be without it. Apply Labor News Co., 64 E. 4th street, N. Y. city. Price 25 cents.

The receipt of a sample copy of this paper is an invitation to subscribe.

OPEN LETTER.

To Carroll D. Wright, Advocate of the Religion of Capital.

Rejected by the Boston "Globe"—The False Reasoning, False Statements and Duplicity of a Statistical Lackey of the Capitalist Class Laid Bare—His "Religion," and What Thereby Hangs, Likewise Dissected.

MANCHESTER, N. H., Feb. 16.

Sir—In looking over the "Globe" the other day I noticed that you addressed a large audience in the First Universalist Church, of Lynn, Mass., on the evening of Feb. 7th, and having read very carefully such portions of said address as the paper gives, I herewith take this opportunity to answer to certain statements which you uttered in regard to industrial conditions and the attitude of the Socialist Labor party, of which I am proud to be a member.

I consider that some of the statements which you made were absurd, and I think that anyone who studies the questions will agree with me. According to the reporter there were "many prominent people present." Perhaps the reason you adopted such a line of argument was owing to the fact that your "solution of the labor question," as you term it, was especially applicable to that certain class known as "prominent" people. You certainly could not have been "catering" to the laboring class when you uttered such rank statements concerning existing conditions, and the purposes and principles of the Socialist movement.

You are quoted as saying in part: "If industrial conditions necessitate, in the opinion of employing capital, a reduction of wages, this REDUCTION should be RESTORED when business conditions allow."

Do you mean this statement as you say it, or do you mean that the FORMER SCALE of wages should be restored? We hear, once in a while, of some employer restoring the scale of wages which were paid before the reduction, although even this does not happen very often, but who has ever heard of the reduction being restored—that is the amount which the employees lost during the time the reduction was in effect? That would be restoring the reduction, and if done, there would be no strikes or labor troubles. I hardly think that if it was necessary for the employer to cut down wages to meet some great competition, and it was agreed that the employees should receive the amount of the reduction when business conditions allowed, that there would be much kicking by the workers. The reason they kick at the present time is because they are continually being cut down, and do not even have the former scale of wages restored when business grows brighter, let alone the restoration of the reduction, while the income of the employer remains the same, or increases, as the case may be, generally the latter.

You next say that "confidential relations should be established between the two parties to production, and if this could be brought about it would considerably soften the present struggle between capital and labor."

Very true; but do you really think that it can be brought about under the existing industrial system? Under this competitive system it is not policy for the capitalist to take the laborer into his confidence for the simple reason that it is not to his private interest to do so; therefore, if any "confidential relation" does exist, it must necessarily be one-sided or not at all.

Here is another illustration of the where-am-I-at style of your address; you emphatically declare that "you may raise wages as high as you will, I care not to what extent, and you cannot remove the struggle; it will always exist!"

And in the beginning you acknowledge the reduction of wages to be the trouble and advocate the advancement of wages as the remedy. Which of these statements are the people to swallow as the proper medicine?

Just what you mean when you state that "the tendency of wages is upward and the cost of things is downward," at the present time, I fail to see, as here in Manchester it is somewhat the reverse, and I don't think this city an exception as regards the present conditions. Is it possible that you can make such an assertion right in the face of the fact that throughout the country a large percentage of the factories and corporations have cut wages from 10 to 25 per cent., and that flour, meats and other nec ssaries of life bring higher prices than they did one year ago? If you are not ignorant of these things (and a statistician had not ought to be), then you must be trying to rub the fur of the "prominent" people who listened to your address the right way. There are some people whose interests demand that they believe or profess to believe such statements as that, and there are some too ignorant or careless to question the truth of it, but there also some who know by experience that it is not so, and will not allow it to be represented as the truth if in their power to prevent.

This latter class is composed mainly of those who believe in the Socialist doctrine, which you say is nothing more than a "criticism of modern methods, without prescribing any remedy for the faults which, it is alleged, exist in our social system." If Socialism is a "criticism" of the present system, and does not give any remedy, why do you prescribe religion as the ONLY remedy when the Encyclopedia Britannica and other good authorities claim that "The ethics of Socialism are identical with the ethics of Christianity?" You also claim that Socialism means the rankest injustice and immorality. I claim that it aims for a truer justice than at present, as well as a higher standard of morals, as its vital principle, "every man according to his deeds," goes to show. Then you go on to say that "it is unfair and immoral, because it gives equal pay for unequal services; that it means the disintegration of the family, the retrogression of the human race, and the degradation of the universe.

Next, you show that the workingman needs MORE justice, that he must have a LARGER share of the comforts and pleasures, which it is his right to have, as it is his labor which produces all of them. Only you advocate that a "margin" exist above the iron law of wages" (which you say "has already been raised from 10 to 15 per cent.)? while Socialism demands that the system be so changed that every man receive every unit of what his own labor produces. That is justice, as Socialists see it, and as the Bible teaches it. They demand that the government be run by the WHOLE people, for the WHOLE people, instead of, by and for a few, then, and not before, can we say, there is justice done to every man.

If the co-operative commonwealth would be unjust and immoral, because it would give equal pay for unequal services, it would be no worse than a system that allows the piling up of a fortune by a man who does nothing, and leaves a mere pittance for the one whose labor produces everything. But it wants no such thing, it simply wants the laborer to get the whole value of what his labor produces. And this is unjust, immoral, is it?

If it causes the disintegration of the family, what does the present competitive system do in that respect, when it forces the members of the family to compete with one another for a job? When it forces the child into the sweatshops and mills, shut up in close apartments, when it ought to be at school, wearing its young life away, or learning crime and vice, and in a great many cases taking the job out of his father's hands, so to speak, because it can do the work cheaper. This does not cause a breaking up of family ties, does it? Oh, no! this is justice, certainly!

You prescribe religion as the ONLY remedy to straighten these difficulties, regardless of the fact that it has held sway over all civilized countries of the world, and still the conditions are rapidly growing worse. Such religion as you have in mind caused more bloodshed than anything else since the foundation of the world, and will continue to do so, for the reason of the difference of the creeds. It causes a division among the workingmen to-day, for the same reason. If there was a universal religion, it would accomplish much, and that is the principle of Socialism, the brotherhood of man, that Christ preached on earth nearly two thousand years ago, that your Religion of Capital denies. He was ridiculed and persecuted and killed by the wealth-grabbing Jews of that day, and every advocate of right and justice has suffered a like treatment, in past history.

The so-called religion of to-day, and which you recommend, is one great big humbug; ministers with fat salaries, churches that cost millions upholding a style too expensive for the common people, and in the midst of all this luxury, thousands are starving every year. I admire the spirit of Wendell Phillips when he replied to those who called him a traitor and an infidel, with these words: "I am a traitor to a country where justice is not shown, and an infidel to a church that can be at peace in the midst of sin."

Religion, as preached to-day, cannot better the condition of the working people, because it upholds the competitive system which keeps them in wage slavery.

Dr. Henry K. Carrol, special agent of church statistics, gives the number of church members to be 20,611,781 in the United States in 1893. Just think! over twenty millions! Why, if the Socialist movement had twenty million followers, there would be more effect shown on the condition of the working men in one year than there has been by your religion in two thousand years.

You say, "there should be no contentment, except of a kind that means that we are content that the world is progressing"; you mean,—of a kind that means that we are content to see a few who run the world to-day, progressing, and thank God that we are permitted to live and witness it.

The only way to bring about a right state of affairs is to throw aside all race and "religious" prejudices, and vote for the abolition of the present competitive dog-eat-dog industrial and social system, and the substitution of the co-operative commonwealth, the true brotherhood of man, which should be the religion of the world, in which all would work together in harmony for the promotion of the welfare of the human race, having as its motto:—"Each for all, and all for each," brothers in the full sense of the word, from the fact that, although they may not be born of the same mother, yet, they are all created by the same just God.

D. C. DOW.

Take Notice.

20 copies of current issue for every copy of THE PEOPLE of August 16th, 1896. Needed to complete files.

"FREEDOM"-"HONOR"

The Exhibition that Capitalism is Making of its Virtues.

Just as Soon as Political Leaders, Once Admired, Interfere with the Sale of Papers, the Journals turn upon Them —Just as Soon as a War Will take Money out of the Country, War-Ship Builders Become Pacific.

The attitude of the New York capitalist press on the Ellsworth bill, and the attitude of our shipbuilders, immediately after the news that Congress was to appropriate some ten millions to build war ships, are two ingots from one quarry. They may seem different, yet are they one.

Only the other day, one set of our capitalist journals was in hysterics with indignation at Croker, and was setting up Tom Platt as the paragon of political purity and freedom; while another set of them equally hysterically denounced Platt, and clung to Croker as the "Rock of Ages." Now, of a sudden, what do we see? The former lovers of Croker have turned a somersault and violently agree with his former "defamers" that he is no good; and the former doters on Platt have veered around and are at one with his former "traducers" in pronouncing him unfit. Both sets now agree that neither Platt nor Croker is a saviour of freedom.

Why is this thus?

Answer:—The Ellsworth bill forbids the papers to publish photographs, and, of course, caricatures, etc., without the consent of people so photographed, etc. This is a serious blow to our journals;—and Croker and Platt favor the bill. Much of the attraction of these papers lies in the "pictures" of people they get up. The pockets of these newspaper men are touched by the bill favored by their former ideals; and their pockets being the seat of their morals, we see them now not only strutting about as paladins of the "freedom of the press," but cutting the wonderful political capers above described.

Now to our war-ship builders.

Among the "patriots" who wanted by all means to avenge the honor of our dead marines in the harbor of Havana the war-ship builders were prominent. Visions of fat contracts for ships hovered over their heads and lulled them into sweetest slumber at night. Other "patriots" there were—the speculators in food, ammunition, guns and other requisites for war—also indignant over the Spaniard, and insisted that the national honor demanded war, but our war-ship builders "patriotically" fanned the war flame with greatest zeal, "War!" "War!" "War!" they cried; one would imagine that their patriotic fervor demanded an immediate declaration of war. Now, all of a sudden, what do we see? These war-ship builders, who, just before were so hot for war, now want "moderation." "War by all means," say they; "our national honor requires it; our murdered soldiers demand it; but not so fast——let us first build up our battle ships; moderation, moderation;" etc., etc.

Why is this thus?

The appropriation of some ten million dollars by Congress for war ships is so large an appropriation that it justifies the fear among our patriots that these funds are to be immediately expended for immediate war; if so expended, a large lump thereof would have to go abroad into foreign war-ship builders' pockets. That is a direct attack upon the pockets of our own "patriotic" war-ship builders. The capitalist patriot's pocket contains not only the plunder that is in it, it contains also the plunder that he thinks he should have. The ten million appropriation for ships he considers his property; has he not "worked" to get it by fanning the flames of war? Not to get it is to him an outrage. To spend any of that appropriation abroad would be such an "outrage"; and as the "outrage" would be certain in case of immediate war, his ardor for the immediate avenging of our honored dead has considerably cooled. He now wants the actual declaration of war set off a little so as to give him time to gobble up the whole appropriation.

The pockets of the capitalist class are the seat of its "love for freedom," its "patriotism," its "religion," and all its long catalogue of virtues. According as its pockets, present or prospective of profits, are affected so is the concrete manifestation of its virtues.

The Social Revolution will indeed be a purifying fire. Humanity is being asphyxiated in the fumes of capitalist immorality.

With the first issue of next April, April 3, the price of THE PEOPLE will be reduced from $1 to 50 cents a year; six months 25 cents; 3 months 15 cents; single copies 2 cents.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Comrade Peter Steenmans, Jr., 52 Guilford street, has been elected agent for THE PEOPLE.

All subscribers in arrears are requested to kindly remit when called upon by the new agent.

THE PEOPLE.

Published at 184 William Street, New York,

—EVERY SUNDAY.—

TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS

Invariably in advance:

One year	$1.00
Six months	.60
Three months	.30
Subscription Trial, one month	.10

As far as possible, rejected communications will be returned if so desired and stamps are enclosed.

Entered as second-class matter at the New York, N. Y., Post office, on April 6th, 1891.

SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In 1888 (Presidential)	2,068
In 1890	13,331
In 1892 (Presidential)	21,157
In 1894	33,133
In 1896 (Presidential)	36,564
In 1897	**55,673**

The ancient "heathen," perhaps, excused the slavery of one man on the ground that it was a means to the full development of another. But to preach slavery to the masses in order that a few crude and half-educated upstarts might become "eminent spinners", "extensive sausage-makers," und "influential shoe-black dealers"—to do that they lacked the bump of "Christianity."

Marx.

THAT "LEAVEN."

The attempt of the felon class that now rules the country to profit by the death of our ill-starred marines in the harbor of Havana by means of a war that shall cost many more workingmen's lives, has incidentally served a good purpose. It has served the purpose of so throwing our "illustrious patriots," together with their henchmen, off their guard that, in their headlong rush for war and martial pretences, they are here and there allowing quite valuable insight into the standard of the Americanism that their "patriotism" aspires at. One of these insights is afforded from official source.

The question of the nativity and quality of our marines having been raised, a high navy official expresses the opinion that the native American sailor has great alertness and adaptability; but that on the other hand the duller Briton is apt to have been trained in the school of deference to superiors and unreasoning obedience, which on the sea prove highly valuable. "Where the Yankee sailor," proceeds our "patriot" navy official, "knows all his rights, and knowing, dares maintain, the foreign-born sailor, ten chances to one, has never set his more sluggish mind to studying the laws of his own status; the same difference is to be observed in an even greater degree between Americans and sailors of any other northern nationality."

From these premises, our "patriot" navy official draws a conclusion that is worth marking. His conclusion is not that the soldier of a Republic, that is one in fact besides the name, can not too much "know his rights, and, knowing, dare maintain"; that an armed force of civilization can not too zealously steer away from and exclude units of a dull, obsequious and non-self-respecting character. No, our "patriot's" conclusion is the reverse. He says:

"While the native recruit, therefore, is always welcomed on the receiving-ship, the foreign-born citizen constitutes A VALUABLE LEAVEN to distribute throughout the lump, and all experienced naval officers recognize this fact."

We shall not here stop to probe the opinion that imputes to men, who, finding themselves tyrannized abroad, pull up stakes and flee to our shores, less love of freedom and character than to men who, born here, patiently submit to the indignities that the capitalist class and the Government inflicts upon native and foreign citizens alike. We shall let that pass.

Not so, however, with the opinion that, instead of our native sailors (they "knowing their rights, and, knowing dare maintain"), being used as a "valuable leaven" to raise the standard of our foreign-born citizens in the navy, the reverse should be the case, and our foreign-born citizens in the navy (they being "dull," "deferential" and of "unreasoning obedience") should be used as and constitute a "valuable leaven" to—do what? To lower the higher standard of the natives down to the level of the "deferential" and "unreasoningly obedient" foreign citizen!

Who needed this admission to know what sort of civic virtue our "patriots" have in store for and aspire at in behalf of our peoples? None of any intelligence. Nevertheless, the admission is valuable.

Our ruling class' "Americanism" means a "dull mass, deferential and of unreasoning obedience"; and its "patriotism" is to leaven our people DOWN to that level.

Wipe it out!

Mr. G. C. Clemens, of Topeka, Kans., is one of the curiosities of Kansas who claims to be a Socialist. He recently said that "Kansas is ripest for Socialism of any State in the Union." If this is so, what a commentary is not that fact upon Mr. Clemens' "Socialism." Surely the State ripest of any for Socialism should have at least as large a vote for the abolition of the capitalist system of wage slavery as any other of the less ripe. Yet what do we see? Not one, single, solitary vote recorded or cast in that "ripest of States" for the Socialist programme! Every vote cast in Kansas is a vote for the principle of the private ownership of the land on and the capital with which to work.—with all that that implies. The Kansas vote is divided between the gold bug capitalists and the Silver bug capitalists, both of whom fleece their workingmen and then treat them to the rifle diet. Not a vote is there cast in opposition to the principle that underlies such practices.

Or is Mr. Clemens' opinion that Kansas is ripest for Socialism based on the fact that he has got a political job from one of the two labor exploiting and oppressing parties of capital in his state?

If that is the ground for his opinion we don't share it.

POLITICAL and ECONOMIC.

The Covington, Ky., "Union Agent" must be to the local capitalists a darling after their own hearts. The illustration that its front page bears sybolizes the very thought that the capitalists have nearest to their hearts in their tactics to blind the workingman. The illustration represents a slick, boiled-shirted and stiff-collared, Prince-Albert-coated, Four-in-hand-cravated capitalist in fraternal handshake with an un-coated, uncollared and un-cravatted workingman. How ideal is not this picture of the brotherly relations that exist between the Capitalist Class and the Working Class! How neatly does not this picture conceal the fact that the capitalist is a sponge on the worker and that the relations between the two are those of hostile classes! How well does not the picture aid the delusion that the worker's welfare depends upon the welfare of the idler, and thereby aid the false tactics of the former in suppressing the political struggle for his own class interests and serving as food for cannon in the struggle of its exploiters' class interests.

Surely the "Union Agent" deserves a big subvention from the capitalist class; but probably it gets only and is content with a bone;—these people always sell themselves very cheap.

We have more than once expressed the well-grounded suspicion that the water, recommended and indulged in by the New York "Voice" (Prohibitionist), must be heavily mixed with alcoholic essence. How else is this passage, proudly inserted in that paper's columns, to be explained:

"The son of an old soldier at a Prohibition meeting said, 'I don't want to be known as the son of a veteran. I want to be a veteran in some grand war for the right; hence I join your movement.'"

That son who considers a movement, headed by landsharks, note shavers, and the Treasurer of the Standard Oil Trust, a movement whose runners uphold and profit by a system that breeds drunkenness, prostitution, suicide, infanticide and all the other choice fruits of the capitalist tree,—that son who considers such a Pharisee movement a "grand war for the right," must be a fit candidate for Keely; nor would the knowing wonder if he, his "glorious" father and his inglorious editors speedily became "Keely graduates" with highest honors.

"Organized labor of the city of Detroit represents a consuming element of the community of not less than 50,000 souls. Now, if these 50,000 people were all to eat, and wear and use none but goods bearing the union label, bought from union clerks in the day time, what a tremendous impetus would be given the conditions which the union label represents. Our manufacturies that are now using the label would be kept running to their fullest capacity and the owners of others, seeing the advantage accruing to their competitors trough this trade mark of free and well-paid labor, would be quick to adopt such conditions as would make its use by them possible. Every store would have union clerks and there would be a healthy rivalry among merchants to see which could carry the best assortment of label goods."

Is this passage dug out of some musty archive of quaint and ancient lore?

No! It is taken from a modern publication.

Is it then culled from some capitalist organ, anxious to cause the working class to persist in its illusions, and thus remain eternally a prey to the results of false tactics?

No! The passage is taken from the Detroit, Mich., "Retail Clerks' Gazette," a labor paper that surely does not mean to cheat the workers!

And yet, here is an instance where ignorance of facts and where false reasoning, tho' well-meaning, can accomplish the worst that fraudulent design can wish.

The label, especially in a large city, unaccompanied and unbacked-up by a class-conscious political movement of the working class, intended to overthrow the capitalist system, can accomplish nothing, except keeping the workers in false gaze. Workers who imagine the label alone could improve their condition, do not understand that, under the capitalist system the working class, organized and otherwise, is bound to get its necessaries as cheaply as possible, because their wages must steadily decline; workers who do not understand that will politically uphold the capitalist system, thereby upholding the cause of a declining wage, thereby strengthening the necessity of looking for cheapness; and thereby destroying the effectiveness of the very thing they are straining for, to wit, the label. Such workers themselves scuttle their label.

On the other hand, the workers who understand that the seat and root of the trouble lies in the wage system of production, such men will push along to overthrow that system; being known to march and move intelligently, their wage-slave-holder will be intimidated, he will not dare to reduce wages as brazenly as he now does, he will rather reduce profits, and thus, the wages being protected, the power to enforce and derive benefit from the label would be strengthened.

The hopelessness of economic weapons of warfare or protection—such as labels, strikes, boycotts, etc.—, unlinked with the weapon of class-conscious revolutionary political warfare, is an established fact. To still propose, and still recommend such weapons, and still pin hope upon them, as done by the "Retail Clerks' Gazette" is ignoring the teaching of experience, and sounds like a voice from the grave.

The following "news item" from the Newburg, N. Y., "Sunday Telegram" is well calculated to remind one of the horse-laugh with which Bismarck (since sent kiting by the Socialist Labor party vote of Germany) greeted the 89 Socialist votes first cast in Berlin; it may also serve to illustrate the internationality of the capitalist stupidity:

"A Socialist labor organization with twelve or fourteen charter members has been formed at Fishkill Landing. Meetings will be held in the rear room of a public house on Main street on Thursday evening of each week. The promoter of the scheme for the dethroning of capitalists and corporations is a man from Newburgh who is blessed with only one eye, but with which lonesome organ he can see a great way ahead, in his mind. A well known insurance man was unanimously chosen chairman of the meeting on Thursday evening, Feb. 17th, and several of our prominent citizens were enrolled as charter members. The place for the manufacture of dynamite has not yet been selected, but it is said that several good sites are in the perspective. At the first meeting it was hard to elect a treasurer, the amount of responsibility being far too great to permit of any-one present permitting himself to assume the great burden of the office. I am told that the charter members only signed the documents in expectation of the tapping of a free keg of beer, but they were sadly disappointed, for when the meeting ended the Newburgh contingent silently 'moped' down to the ferry, and took the first boat home, leaving their thirsty friends and coadjutors a wondering croud behind. There is said to be 98 cents in the treasury."

How beautiful, how innocent withal, does not this, from the New York "Evening Post" (Gold Bug Free Trader), sound:

"It surely cannot be many years before the people generally will recognize the necessity of applying principles of common sense to the civil service generally, both at home and abroad."

In view, however, of the fact that the Gold Bug Free Trade capitalist class, just the same as its doubles, the Silver Bug Free Trade, the Gold Bug Protectionist and the Silver Bug Protectionist capitalists, is lowering the wages of workingmen fathers and mothers, thereby depriving them of the opportunity to sending their children to school; in view of that whole capitalist classes' stinginess in school appropriations, depriving large numbers of the children of the poor from school room: —in view of all this, what the "Evening Post" actually means is this:

"It surely cannot be many years before our Civil Service Regulations will keep out of all offices worth holding all the children of the working class, and then only our children, the children, the children of the "Evening Post" class will have a chance at the public crib."

This reasoning would not be incorrect were not the Socialist Labor party movement there, were not, consequently, the Social Revolution certain to head off the "Evening Post's" felow crew.

The Cleveland, O., "Citizen," organ of the C. L. U. of that town, can not be blamed for the following exultation at the grave of a fake labor paper with which it has for some time been wrestling:

"The Chicago 'Eight-Hour Herald' is dead. With almost his last gasp it stated that the 'Citizen' 'is a dead duck' because the mighty Gompers came to the rescue of the skate and fakir brigade of so-called labor papers that we have been making war on because of their disreputable tactics. It is in order for Mr. Gompers to send one of his famous sympathy letters to the proprietors of the dear departed, which was one of his warmest supporters."

What a ring of righteous and patriotic indignation is there not in these words of the Chicago, Ill., "Tribune":

"The time is past for conjectures as to whether there is to be war with Spain. There is war now. It will not commence when Congress declares war. It began when Spain blew up the Maine in the harbor of Havana. Any declaration of war that Congress may make will be merely an announcement that this country is ready to administer to the countrymen of Alva condign punishment for an act of perfidy more atrocious than any he ever committed."

And what a light is not thrown at the indignation, against the "countrymen of Alva" and the "act of perfidy more atrocious than any he ever committed," entertained by a capitalist paper that gloated at the judicial murder of innocent men in Chicago, whose only offense was that they had called an indignation meeting over the cold-blooded assination of workingmen on strike against the invention-thief McCormick! And what additional light is not thrown upon the "righteousness" of that paper's indignation by its present posture that condones the crime of Hazleton!

The indignation at wrongs indulged in by the capitalist press is the very quintessence of perfidy.

Fortunately, it is not the voice of perfidy alone that is raised from the press of the land. The Socialist Labor party's voice rings clear in the midst of the perfidious din that goes up from the capitalist press on the Cuban affair and all that thereby hangs.

The San Francisco, Cal., "New Charter" says well:

"Congress is rampant over a desire to 'free' Cuba. If war should be declared with Spain, where will the Congressmen be when the guns begin to roar? As far in the rear as they can get, heroically drawing their salaries. Where will the Cuban masses be when 'freed?' They will be subject to a new set of exploiters and will soon discover that a change of government does not mean a change of condition."

The Girard, Kans., "Appeal to Reason," in answer to questions from correspondents why it does not state point blank as it may think, what party the working people should vote for—the Socialist Labor party or the Debs "party" —, declines to mention the party, and places its declination upon the ground that it refuses to "dictate" to people what party they should vote for, and that it prefers to "allow people to think for themselves, instead of assuming to think for them."

All of which forces forward the question, Why does the "Appeal to Reason" at all appear?

If, to express an opinion and argue for it, in the matter of what party should be preferred, the Socialist Labor party or the Debs party, is to "dictate" to others; if to do that implies a willingness to "assume to think for others"; if to do that implies a dictatorial readiness not to "allow people to think for themselves";—can it be considered less "dictatorial" to express an opinion and argue for it against "Trusts," against the "Money Power," against the old parties, against Capitalism and in favor of Socialism? Surely not. If the "Appeal to Reason" were to practise its own theory that such expression of opinion and arguing for it is an interference with the freedom of others to think for themselves, then it should either stop publication altogether, or appear in four blank pages. But it does not. Extensively, vehemently, furiously it "goes for" "Trusts," etc., and declares for Socialism. What then does the "Appeal to Reason" mean by its theory?

What it really means is that it is ready to express its opinion and argue therefor in all matters on which it is, or imagines itself, clear: hence, upon "Trusts," "Money Power," "Capitalism," "Socialism," it hesitates not to express its views and stand for them, and induce others, by argument, to accept them; but that on the subject of the Debs "party" it is not at all clear, and therefore wishes to withhold its judgment. Such an attitude might be open to the charge of lack of fitness to participate in the national debate now going on; but, if frankly admitted, would be free from the charge of unfairness that it is now open to, by seeking to hide the fact behind insinuations against others.

Not being frank enough to admit that it lacks the knowledge to enable it to size up the Debs "party," the "Appeal to Reason" seeks to conceal its ignorance behind the mask of "democracy," and, in pursuit of its skulking course, it is ready to go to the length of falsely imputing a "dictatorial" spirit to the S. L. P. for not doing in this respect, what the "Appeal to Reason" does not do in all others,—to "allow people to think for themselves."

This is all there is in the "fair play," "democratic" theory behind which the "Appeal to Reason" seeks to shelter itself. The fact, however, involves a much more important point. It illustrates the habitual unfairness in methods on the part of all those who disagree with the tactics of the S. L. P.

The point is well illustrated by the "Appeal to Reason's" theory or excuse for not uttering itself pro or con on the S. L. P. and the Debs "party."

The following squib from the Johnston, R. I., "Beacon" condenses, into a few lines, volumes of valuable information on matters that are of prime importance to the wage slave in picking his way out of the labyrinth of false teachings that surround him:

"Capital is the creation of labor, although the laborer is the slave of the capitalist. Labor produces capital and the capitalist secures it by robbing the laborer and making him his slave. If the laborer received in wages the full product of his toil there would be no such thing as capitalists, and profit, interest and rent would be unknown. But instead, under present conditions, the laborer produces, first, enough to pay his own wages, second, enough to replace the capital used up in the process, and then a balance equal to one-half or two-thirds of the total product which the capitalist retains as profits in return for the part he does not play in the production of wealth. So, the laborer not only pays his own wages and the profits of his masters, but actually reproduces the capital used."

UNCLE SAM & BROTHER JONATHAN.

Brother Jonathan—I have become positively proud of our Government. Of late I was beginning to feel inclined to look upon it as you Socialists do. But you are off. Likewise are you off in the opinion you hold of our capitalist class. It and the Government are not neglectful of the poor; least of all are they neglectful of our soldiers. See how unanimous is the feeling among them of indignation at the foul murder committed upon our marines by Spain in the harbor of Havana. Our Government and our capitalists are now, as they always have been, thoughtful of the weal and the honor of our soldiers.

Uncle Sam—"Always," is good indeed!

B. J.—Yes, ALWAYS. When were they not?

U. S.—How old are you?

B. J.—Sixty.

U. S.—Then you were a pretty big chunk of a laddie when our Civil war was on.

B. J.—I was.

U. S.—And you know all about it?

B. J.—I do; and right royally were our soldiers treated.

U. S.—Did you ever hear about the Legal Tender Act of '62?

B. J.—Don't remember that particularly.

U. S.—Well, this was the situation. The Greenback had depreciated greatly; so much that it took $2.85 in Greenbacks to buy what $1 in coin did.

B. J.—What have we got to do with the money question? I thought you Socialists claim the money question has nothing to do with the Labor Question.

U. S.—And so it hasn't. But the conduct of our capitalists and its Government at that time throws some little light upon their attitude towards that part of the working class that was fighting the Union's battles.

Well, then, the Greenback was greatly depreciated; business was hurt thereby because of the insecurity of prices that accompanies such discrepancy in the purchasing power of current money. Thereupon the Legal Tender Act was passed—

B. J.—And did that hurt the soldiers' interests?

U. S.—It did, as you will see. By reason of this disparity, the Legal Tender Act provided that the credit notes, or the Greenbacks of the Government, were not to be legal tender in the payment of the interest on the United States bonds;—

B. J.—Now, again, I am less able to understand you. Don't you Socialists claim that money must have intrinsic value—

U. S.—Or be redeemable in intrinsic value; and we add that that is the pest that attaches to all money under the capitalist system:—

B. J.—Very well; then where is the wrong in legislating for a payment of debts with intrinsic value or coin?

U. S.—None whatever, provided they had legislated the Greenback clean out of its legal tender power. And herein lies the point. Our capitalist class and Government legislated the depreciated Greenback out of legal tender power ONLY in the interest of the capitalist class, and left the legal tender power sticking to that depreciated Greenback in all transactions where they were debtors themselves;—

B. J.—You don't say!

U. S.—Keep cool, because, if there is any feeling in you, you will be boiling hot before I get through with my story, and show you how these capitalists love our soldiers.

Well, then, by the Legal Tender Act payments due on the bonds had to be made in coin; most other payments could be made in Greenbacks.

The soldiers' salary was not a payment of interest on bonds; consequently the soldier could be and was paid, not in coin, but in Greenbacks.

The soldiers' pay was $13 a month. But as he was paid in Greenbacks with a purchasing power that was at a discount of $1.85, the soldiers did not get $13, but only $4.56—that being the purchasing power of the $13 in Greenback that they got;—

B. J.—Thunder!

U. S.—Accordingly our "soldier-loving" capitalists protected themselves: they saw to it that when, in payment of the interest on their bonds they got a thing called ONE DOLLAR, that thing should not have the purchasing power of only about one-third of a dollar; they saw to it that by their law, every time they received thirteen things called dollars, those thirteen things should have the purchasing power of $13, not the purchasing power of only $4.56. But the soldier they left out in the cold.

B. J.—The divvil, you say!

U. S.—They protected themselves by law against the economic law of capital that reduced the purchasing power of the Greenback; but the soldier who was in the front, who was bleeding, dying, or undermining his health for life so as to keep up the very Government on whose existence the payments to those capitalists depended,—that soldier was left out in the cold. The "soldier-loving" capitalist, who stayed at home protected himself with the aid of the Government, but the soldier was left exposed to the working of that economic law.

B. J.—The divvil, I say again!

U. S.—And what is more, that soldier was doubly cheated. They pretended to pay him $13 and gave him only $4.56. Now, Sir, what say you to your theory about the Socialists being wrong?

B. J.—I drop it; I never knew that!

U. S.—So don't make a fool of yourself now. The capitalists and their Government live upon the working class like hyenas.

In time of peace, they live upon the working class in the shops, mills, factories, railroad yards, mines, etc.; skin them to the bones, and shoot them down if they dare "ask for more."

In time of war they live upon the working class whom they enlist, or draft, or cajole into the ranks.

Whether in the soldier's uniform or the workman's blouse, the proletariat is used by the capitalist class and its government as cattle. It cheats them right and left, passes laws in its own behalf; swindles them out of their pay; and uses their very misfortunes as a pretext for Pharisaic indignation on which to perpetrate some more swindle upon them.

Tat you were ready to be taken in by their false pretences shows only how effective their tactics of rascality are.

A VARIETY INTERLUDE.

[By J. LESLIE in London, Eng., Justice.]

Scene: A Castle, apparently in the air. Enter various personages, male and female, in dramatic attitudes. They group themselves artistically, and then all sing, to the inspiring air of "Dunum-a-doo":—

Behold! There now before you stand
The elect of Democracy;
Who represent on English land
The latest Aristocracy.
Mark our genteel exterior,
Our picked and choice variety;
We're Socialists superior—
The Fabian Society.

Then they all dance round to a medley, in which the strains of "Rule Britannia" can be distinctly heard, with a faint suspicion of the "Marseillaise," while a microphone MIGHT enable one to trace a fragment of the "Carmagnole." They resume:—

We've stranded Marx upon the rocks,
With scarce, of rag, a relic on;
And who dare bark? Shall dunghill cocks
Confront the dazzling Helicon?
In very truth we do believe—
Believe it, in all piety—
'Twas Nature's utmost to conceive
The Fabian Society.

Here they all execute a dance of wonder at each other's abilities, and the dance closes with a breakdown. They resume:—

Good British Trade, attention pay;
We undertake to vitalize;
So Pauca Verba when we say,
Our motto is to socialize.
Throw Revolution to the dogs,
Hi-tiddly-hi-ti-ti-tity;
We're statesmen and not demagogues—
The Fabian Society.

Here ensues a ceremony of adulation, in which they all worship a figure with a face like the sun, with spots on it. They resume:—

The lion of the S. D. F.
May treat us with scurrility;
The Oracle of old was deaf
When taunted with futility.
Our battle-chy, "On, Stanley, on;
Enhance our notoriety;
Shine, spotted sun, shine out upon
The Fabian Society."

Here they all dance a garland, and the changes are so quick and complicated that it is hard to tell one dancer from another. They resume:—

We all things are—but most are fond
In manner Daily Chronic'ly
Of posing as a new Gironde,
Though Hyndman smiles sardonically.
No criticism e'er can jar
Our sense of self-propriety,
We are, we are, we are, we are
The Fabian Society.

Here they all fixedly regard each other, and then suddenly vanish, to typify that they are lost—in admiration of one another. The stage then represents, so far as it can be made to do so, an Historical Vacuum. Gradually there emerges an enlarged doll's house, on the chimney of which sits a magpie, who croaks "Arma Virumque Cano!" Then a tall figure comes from behind the house, and advancing to the footlights with an air of Aristotelian Omniscience, sings:

"Though men may come and men may go,"
The phrase is Tennysonian,
I'm always here, that men may know
The Fabian's Jevonian.
Exploiters all, I bear the balm,
To heal your sore anxiety,
I am, I am, I am, I am
The Fabian Society.

The curtain falls amidst thunders of applause from the higher-priced parts of the house, while the occupants of the pit and gallery look at each other and wonder what the devil it is all about.

LETTER BOX.

Offhand Answers to Inquirers.

H. B. H., Chicago.—You being nearer to "Headquarters" (we know you will smile, but we shall call it "Headquarters") ought to have better means to ascertain than we. That Debs party being a one man affair, does not publish its financial resources; we have no way to ascertain whence its funds come to pay the traveling expenses of its agitators. But this we know that at least Mr. Debs' railroad fare cost him nothing. He travels on passes. How this comes about we don't know; it is curious, but we have no time to inquire.

B. W., Holyoke, Mass.—Read the report on the first page of this issue from New Bedford.

M. L. W., Lynn, Mass.—James Carey, of Haverhill, should long ago have been fired out of the party; but the party's tolerance is great. He is economically a conceited ignoramus and has long been a breeder and retailer of slander against the party and its most esteemed members; that yarn about Comrade Matchett, our '96 Presidential candidate, having marched in a McKinley parade, is an instance in point, that illustrates the man's viciousness and stupidity. The experience made with him is wholesome; the party has learned a lesson. He should join Gordon et al. in the "Social Democracy," they are birds of a feather.

N. N., Cleveland, O.—No, thank you.

GERMANY.

(Continued.)

The eyes of the world were fixed on Germany. Socialism, which for twelve years had remained dormant in all the other countries of Europe, began to show again some signs of life in France and Belgium. The victory of 1884 won on German soil by 600,000 class-conscious workingmen over the strongest despotism that the proletariat had ever faced, gave the signal for that reorganization of national forces everywhere, which was the necessary prelude to the reconstitution of the international movement.

The ominous tidings of the election alarmed the Imperial Court, petrified the police and disconcerted every political party. Bismarck himself, it is said, was dumfounded, and for a while did not know what to do. When he had sufficiently recovered his sense of deviltry to again scheme and plot and set his imps in motion, the great work of exterminating the Socialists was resumed with increasing fury. Between Oct. 1st, 1884, and Sept. 30th, 1885, seventy-six meetings were dissolved in Berlin alone, and as many more were prohibited. Despite police vigilance and brutality, workingmen's associations multiplied at an unprecedented rate. Strikes, rendered more difficult by an ordinance of Minister Puttkamer, grew in number and magnitude. Repeatedly defied and cornered in discussion by the Socialist deputies, Bismarck again undertook to get rid of them. Previous to the election of 1884, the Socialist congress, which could not meet anywhere in Germany, had been held at Copenhagen, in Denmark. On their return several delegates had been arrested but discharged. Later, however, some of these men, after several prosecuting attorneys had declined to institute proceedings against them, were indicted at Chemnitz and tried on the charge of having participated in a secret combination for the circulation of prohibited publications. The court acquitted them all. Sorely disappointed, the government procured from the Federal Court of Appeals a reversal of the judgment of acquittal. A new trial was had at Freiberg, and under the decision of the Court of Appeals the accused were found guilty. This decision was glaringly outrageous. While admitting that the alleged organization had no officers or constitution, it was held that participation in a congress which received a report concerning the "Social-Democrat" and approved by resolution the editorial conduct of that paper, was circumstantial evidence showing an unlawful combination within the meaning of the law.

Among the twelve victims of the Freiberg prosecution—all leading Socialists—six were members of the Reichstag, namely, Bebel, Vollmar, Dietz, Auer, Frohme and Viereck. Four of these, including Bebel, were sentenced to nine months and the others to six months' imprisonment. Upon their release it was found that the health of some had been severely impaired by the treatment they had received during their incarceration.

In February, 1887, the Reichstag took issue with the government upon the Army Bill and was "patriotically" dissolved; whereupon the National Liberals and the Conservatives united their voting forces. This was a powerful combination; but Bismarck feared its consequences far less than he did the growth of Socialism, and his attention during the electoral campaign was chiefly directed to the movements of the Social-Democrats. Their electoral leaflets were prohibited, their meetings dispersed, their agitators apprehended, their houses invaded and searched. On election day, they cast 763,128 votes, or 213,138 more than in 1884! In Berlin, where the persecution had been most relentless, they cast 93,335 ballots, or 40 per cent. of the total vote.

Owing, however, to the party coalitions that had taken place, the number of Socialist deputies fell from 24 to 11. In Saxony, where the Socialists cast 149,279 ballots for their candidates, or nearly 29 per cent. of the total vote, they did not elect one deputy. But there was no rejoicing on this account among the other parties. All realized the full meaning of the mighty growth of the proletarian vote, and not one of their organs dared to controvert this conclusion of the Berlin "Volksblatt": "The propertied class may divide or combine as they please into parties; the future is ours."

Exasperated to madness, Bismarck demanded from the Reichstag not only an extension of the anti-Socialist law, but an amendment thereto, providing severer punishments for Socialist propagandists and granting to the government the additional power of expelling Socialist agitators from the country. Vainly had Liebknecht reminded the stubborn Chancellor of the French fabulist's saying: "Tant va la cruche à l'eau qu'enfin elle se casse" (so much goes the pitcher to the well that some fine morning it goes to pieces.) It was during the debate upon this infamous bill of arbitrary and unlimited proscription that his anti-Socialist legislation received its death-blow.

Under the decision of the Court of Appeals already referred to, a great trial was taking place at Elberfeld, in the course of which the police system of espionage, with all its attendant corruptions and rascality, was laid bare in its cancer-like hideousness before the nation. Finally, the Socialist deputy Singer presented to the Reichstag official proofs of the fact that the police was regularly employing agents to incite workingmen to deeds of violence. One of these agents—a certain Schroeder—was arrested in Switzerland and a box of dynamite found in his possession. It was shown by testimony taken before the Swiss authorities that Schroeder was receiving a regular salary from the directors of the Berlin police as a special spy; that in this capacity he had contrived to make himself a trusted companion of Stellmacher, Peukert and other noted Anarchists; that he had taken a leading part in an Anarchist conference, and that he had paid for the printing of several issues of the "Freiheit" when it was temporarily published in Switzerland during the imprisonment of Most in London. From the details of this exposure it appeared clearly that the purpose of the government in entertaining friendly relations with the Anarchists was not to discover and thwart their plots, but to actually suggest, encourage and aid such plots in order to promote anti-Socialist legislation. Singer's revelations naturally produced a wide-spread sensation and profound disgust, and when Bismarck's proscription bill came to a vote in January, 1890, a few conservatives only were found sufficiently barren of honor and conscience to record themselves in its favor. The Reichstag was immediately dissolved and the 20th of February appointed for the election of a new parliament.

In the meantime important events of another sort had taken place. First may be noted the two international Socialist congresses held simultaneously at Paris in July, 1889, and in only one of which Germany was represented. As no movement could pretend to be of an international character without the co-operation of the German Social-Democracy, the position taken by the latter on this occasion was the first necessary step in the direction of complete unity upon a sound basis of principle and tactics. It no doubt facilitated the task assigned to the Belgians by the two Paris congresses, of accomplishing this unity at Brussels in 1891. At any rate the Paris gatherings of 1889, by the nature, number and nationalities of the organizations represented, plainly showed that the Socialist wave was advancing in all countries, and that a new force, with which the governments of Europe would have to reckon in their international relations, had made its appearance.

Next came the death of the old Emperor William, and the ninety days' reign of his dying son Fritz, during which Bismarck gave the astonished world a spectacle of intrigue unsurpassed in the annals of the Roman Empire. This bold man had dreamt of nothing less than to make the Chancellorship—that is, the real imperial power—hereditary in his family.

When the William of many uniforms ascended the throne, his first care was to rid himself of his overtowering Minister in a decent way, if possible, or, this failing, in any possible way. In the light of his subsequent conduct it may safely be assumed that he did not then have for the Socialists, or for the proletarian classes generally, a more tender regard than Bismarck had ever shown. But it admirably served his purpose to differ with the Chancellor concerning their treatment; and it served also the purpose of his courtiers to encourage this difference, to widen it by good argument, to strengthen it by displays of virtuous indignation, and to push it to a climax by flattering their young dupe with a prospect of universal genuflexion to his greatness as the clementest monarch, the kindest father of the poor people and the wisest statesman of his day. Hence came out—as sudden, as unexpected, as any theatrical change of uniform could be—the two famous "Rescripts," namely: One addressed to Bismarck, instructing him "to bring about a conference between the governments of countries competing with Germany on the world's markets, with a view to the international regulation and limitation of the labor exacted from working people;" the other addressed to the Minister of Commerce, declaring that it was the duty of the State "to regulate the time and nature of labor, so that the health, morality and material welfare of the working people, as well as their equal rights before the law, might be preserved."

These rescripts were issued on the 4th of February, 1890, or sixteen days before election. And we know of American politicians, noted among their fellows for their wonderful achievements in the field of political tomfoolery, who then admiringly declared that the young Emperor had not his peer in this country. The German workmen, however, unlike their fellow proletarians of America, reasoned that if William had become or was in a fair way of becoming a "friend of labor," the best mode of pleasing and strengthening him was to vote the Socialist ticket. On election day, therefore, they cast 1,427,298 votes for the Social-Democratic candidates, electing 20 of them outright, and 15 more at the second ballot.

The following table shows the progress made in 26 great cities of Germany during the twelve years of "exceptional law":

Cities.	1878.	1890.	Cities.	1878.	1890.
Berlin	51,164	126,317	Dusseldorf	486	8,228
Hamburg	29,629	67,303	Nuremberg	10,162	17,045
Breslau	13,065	21,555	Dantzig	114	3,525
Munich	5,249	28,218	Strassburg	141	4,773
Dresden	17,303	25,079	Chemnitz	9,899	24,641
Leipzig	5,822	12,921	Elberfeld--Barmen	11,325	18,473
Cologne	2,189	10,641	Altona	11,662	19,533
Magdburg	6,253	17,266	Stettin	914	7,759
Frankfort-on-Maine	4,080	12,663	Aix-la-Chapelle	909	1,744
Koenigsberg	1,108	12,370	Crefeld	467	3,030
Hanover	6,588	15,789	Brunswick	7,876	13,621
Stuttgart	4,136	10,446	Halle	1,046	12,808
Bremen	6,304	14,843	Lubeck	1,588	6,393

Of the above cities, Berlin, Hamburg, Altona, Leipzig, Francfort and Stettin were in a minor state of siege. In other districts, where the minor state of siege was also in force, the result was not less significant, as appears from the following figures:

Districts.	1878.	1890.	Districts.	1878.	1890.
Niederbarnim	2,775	13,362	Lauenburg	347	2,072
Charlottenburg	4,763	19,169	Leipzig (rural)	11,253	30,127
Potsdam-Spandau	?	3,977	Offenbach-on-Maine	5,557	10,343
Harburg	1,763	6,860	Spremberg	1,242	5,610
Ottensen-Pinneberg	5,453	10,820			

Nor was this all. A fact of still greater import remains to be noted. In 1887 the Social-Democracy occupied the fifth place among the political parties of the Empire. It had now advanced to the first, leaving the Centrists (or Ultramontanes), who came next, 117,000 votes behind. The following comparative table shows the gains it had made in those three years at the expense of its various opponents:

	1890.	1887.	Increase.	Decrease.
Socialists	1,457,323	763,128	694,195	......
Centrists (Ultramontanes)	1,340,719	1,516,222	......	175,503
National Liberals	1,187,669	1,677,979	......	490,310
German Liberals	1,167,764	973,104	194,660	......
German Conservatives	899,144	1,147,200	......	248,056
Free Conservatives (Imperialists)	485,959	736,389	......	250,430
Poles	246,773	219,973	26,800	......
People's Party	147,570	88,818	58,752	......
Guelphs	112,675	112,827	......	152
Alsatians	101,156	233,973	......	132,817
Anti-Semites	47,536	11,593	35,943	......
Danes	13,672	12,360	1,312	......
Total vote	7,207,960	7,493,566	......	285,606

The inconsistencies between the votes cast and the number of seats carried by each party were very striking. With proportional representation the Socialists would have had 80 representatives in the Reichstag instead of 35; the Ultramontanes, 75 instead of 105; the National Liberals, 65 instead of 39; the German Liberals, 64 instead of 70; the German Conservatives, 49 instead of 69; the Imperialists, 27 instead of 22; the Poles, 13 instead of 16; the People's Party, 8 instead of 10; the Guelphs, 6 instead of 10; the Alsatians, 5 instead of 13; the Anti-Semites, 2 instead of 4, and the Danes none instead of 1.

On the 10th of March, 1890, Bismarck "received his sack."

We have thus dwelt at some length upon the twelve years' era of repression in Germany, because of the unique spectacle it affords in the history of the class struggle—that is, in the real history of human progress; namely, the spectacle of a class-conscious proletariat, with every limb fettered and apparently impotent, steadily rising under a crushing weight of despotism by the mere force of its intelligent will, and without a violent blow forcing its way to freedom. The subsequent events, though not less important and instructive, are better known and may (for the present) be reviewed briefly.

No attempt was made in the new Reichstag to further prolong the law of exception, which expired on September 30, 1890. On that day imposing demonstrations were held throughout Germany. In the districts where the state of siege had until then been in force, the expelled agitators returned and were naturally the center of enthusiastic manifestations. On that day, also, the "Sozial-Demokrat," then published in London, issued its last number.

A national congress was immediately called, and was held at Halle from the 12th to the 19th of October. It was the first that had met on German soil in twelve years. It was attended by 390 delegates from all the districts of Germany. Representatives of Socialist parties had also come from France, Belgium, England, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. The proceedings were opened by Liebknecht. The debates, which were all public, showed the most perfect accord in the serried ranks of that magnificent Social-Democracy upon all questions of principle and tactics. The financial report of Bebel, who had charge of the funds during the period of repression, showed a balance on hand of 171,820.90 marks (or about $43,000). The congress gave the party a new organization, in accordance with its new conditions of existence. The "Berliner Volksblatt," under the new name of "Vorwärts" (Forward) was made the central organ of the movement.

The party press, which under the law of exception had been not only crippled and gagged but practically annihilated, rose from its ashes. In March, 1891, there were already 27 dailies and 10 weeklies; 23 papers appearing three times, and 7 twice a week. There was also the "Neue Zeit," a magazine of scientific Socialism, appearing weekly, besides two satirical and illustrated sheets. The trade union movement, in perfect harmony with the political, was contributing its share of militant literature with 34 trade organs.

It should not be imagined, however, that the "militants" had passed from a bed of thorns to a bed of roses. There were in the penal code certain provisions, and there were on the bench certain interpreters of those provisions, that, taken together, were in themselves a fair substitute for the law of exception and made the Socialist editors, the Socialist agitators, and all such free men, realize that they must from time to time pay dearly for such freedom as their party had gained. In the three years that followed the era of repression the German tribunals inflicted upon that giddy sort of people, who don't know liberty from licence, terms of imprisonment and fines respectively aggregating 293 years and 70,000 marks.

As to the famous "rescripts" of 1890, they became a part of ancient history together with the man that it had been their sole purpose to drive out of power. There was, of course, no "conference of governments," no national or international "regulation of labor," no "limitation of the workday, and no intention to do aught but let well enough alone at all costs and all hazards, as was amply shown by the treatment of strikers on every occasion. Even in the imperial workshops, on the State railways, in the post office, and in every public service where hopes of improvement had first been entertained, the condition of the workers was steadily getting worse. It became daily more apparent to some, who had not yet perceived it, that the "health, morality, welfare and equal rights" to which Little William had "rescripted" that the laboring class was entitled, were not in their nature imperial presents, but were things to be fought for every day, everywhere, by the laboring class itself. Determined to conquer, the Socialists advanced another step. And it was again a long step. At the parliamentary election of 1893 they polled 1,786,738 votes and elected 44 deputies to the Reichstag.

Since then, a number of local contests have taken place, with results showing in every case the steady growth of the party.

In 1894 the Socialists resolutely entered a campaign in the 6th parliamentary district of Schleswig-Holstein, where they held 147 public meetings and sent debaters to 40 other assemblages called by Liberals and Conservatives. They carried the day by a handsome majority. They carried also the 23d district of Saxony. These two victories increased to 46 the number of Socialist deputies in the Reichstag.

In 1895, owing to a combination of parties against them, they lost a seat at Lennep—Mettmann, although their vote was larger than in 1893 by more than 2,000. On the other hand, they gained one seat in the Dresden-Country district and one at Dortmund. In each of these two districts the Socialist vote surpassed the total vote of all the other parties. In that same year the Socialists increased to 14 seats their representation in the Chamber of Saxony, 2 in the Chamber of Wurtemberg, and 3 in the Chamber of Baden.

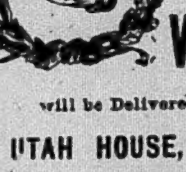
In 1896, they gained another seat in Halle, Saxony, which raised to 48, the number of Socialist representatives in the Reichstag. They also increased considerably their representations in municipal councils. The national congress of the party, held at Hamburg, had to discuss a very important question of tactics, to wit: "Shall the Socialists of Prussia participate in the elections for the Landtag (or Prussian Chamber)? The suffrage in these elections is restricted by property qualifications, which make it extremely difficult if not absolutely impossible for the Socialists to elect any candidate. Some delegates argued that by taking part in the contest the Socialists would, in fact, increase the chances of the Conservatives against the Liberals, thus enabling the Landtag, elected by the limited suffrage of one State of the Empire, to pass laws for Prussia similar to the very law of exception which the Reichstag, elected by the universal suffrage of the whole Empire, had finally abandoned. Others held that the party could not place itself in the attitude of favoring the Liberals, whose political treachery was as much to be feared as the open hostility of the Conservatives. Finally, a resolution was adopted, declaring that the party should place candidates in the field wherever there might be any chance whatever of success, but that it should strictly abstain from any alliance or compromise with the other parties.

In 1897 the party contested ten seats in the Reichstag that had become vacant. Three of these were formerly held by Socialists, two of whom (Schulze of Koenigsberg, and Grillenberger of Nuremberg) had died in the harness, and one (Joest, of Mainz) had resigned for private reasons. Owing again to a combination of parties, and although the Socialist vote was as large as in 1893, the Mainz seat was lost. On the other hand, the Koenigsberg and Nuremberg seats were preserved; the first by a majority of 696 votes over the total polled by the three other candidates, and the second by an increase of several thousands as compared with 1893. The loss of Mainz was made up by the gain of a new district at West Havelland, in Brandenburg. In all the other districts the Socialist vote showed a marked increase. The elections for the Landtage (or Diets) of several States gave excellent results, showing large gains of votes and seats.

The present Reichstag is coming to the end of its natural life, and a general parliamentary election will be held in Germany in June or July of the current year. Elections will also be held this year in France and Belgium. We confidently look for a manifestation of Socialist strength in those three countries, that will open the eyes of the blindest to the fact that Capitalism has run its course and that the Social Revolution has been set down by the hand of Progress on the book of Fate as one of the earliest events of the Twentieth Century.

[The End].

9th Assembly District, Socialist Labor Party.



A FREE LECTURE

By H. CARLESS.

Subject:

When Prosperity Will Come,

will be Delivered and Illustrated by Gorgeous Stereopticon Views

at UTAH HOUSE, corner of 25th Street and 8th Avenue,

on MONDAY, March 14th, 8 P. M.

WORKINGMEN! Attend this Free Lecture and learn the opinions of an able socialist speaker, upon your industrial condition. We socialists, are not dogmatic in our views, neither are we afraid of questions or discussions, hence questions will be allowed and a free discussion will be permitted.

WORKINGMEN, come in your numbers to learn if you are sympathetic, to debate if you are not. 217

PARTY NEWS.

Activity of Militant Socialists East, West, North and South.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—Secretary Henry Kuhn, 184 William street, N. Y.

NATIONAL BOARD OF APPEALS — Secretary Robert Bandlow, 193 Champlain St., Cleveland, O.

National Executive Committee.

Session of March 8th with Comrade Furman in the chair. Absent Bennett, Matchett, Stahl, the latter two excused. The financial report for the week ending March 5th showed receipts to have been $88.60; expenditures, $48.90; balance for the week $39.70.

Comrade Hickey reported as to his agitation in New Bedford and Haverhill. The work in New Bedford has been very successful. The letter from Haverhill was written shortly after his arrival in that city, and gave only an outline of the work as planned by himself and Comrade Goldstein, of Boston; the latter had come over from Boston to assist in the reorganization of the Section. Hickey explained that Carey had kept out of Haverhill all along all the information about the S. L. P., had prevented THE PEOPLE and the leaflets of the party from being distributed, so that our position was not known at all, and whatever Socialist organization there was bore exclusively the character of a personal following of Carey.

Comrade Keinard reported about his work in Georgia, where he found the field very unpromising. He was ordered to so arrange his tour as to put in one week's work in Milwaukee, Wis., so as to take a hand in the campaign there.

Charters were granted to new Sections in Phenix City, Ala.; Rockvale, Colo.; Portsmouth, N. H.; Meriden, Conn.

L. A. MALKIEL, Rec. Secy.

A Call

To the Sections and Members of the Socialist Labor Party.

Comrades—A most important step is about to be taken, one that will be of the most far-reaching consequences for the future development of our party and our movement. With the first issue of the new volume, that is to say the first issue in the month of April, 1898, the subscription price of our national official organ, THE PEOPLE, will be reduced from $1 a year to 50c. a year, or 25c. for six months.

It is needless to point out to the Comrades the increased opportunities for gathering subscribers and swelling the circulation that this decrease of the price affords to all who are engaged in the work of carrying the light of Socialism to the workers of the land; nor should it be necessary to demonstrate that lasting results in propaganda can be obtained only by bringing home to the masses of the working class the pure and unadulterated teachings of the S. L. P. as found in our organ, THE PEOPLE.

But in view of the change made it becomes necessary to go to work in a systematized manner, to work with greater zeal than ever, and to leave no stone unturned to gain new readers and new subscribers.

The Sections of the party are therefore called upon to consider this matter at their next regular meeting, to appoint canvassing committees, and to take in fact all steps that are needed to insure a prompt and energetic agitation. Every member of the party who sees this call should make it his business to see to it that the matter is brought up at the meeting of his Section or branch, and proper action taken.

Organizers are requested to report without delay to headquarters as to the action taken and state in their reports the prospects of an increase of the circulation in their respective localities.

It may be added that Section New Haven, Conn., has already pledged itself to secure 200 new subscribers and to pay in cash, for one year, whatever they may fall short of that number.

In the hope that this welcome news may be the means of spurring our Comrades all over the country to renewed efforts on behalf of THE PEOPLE, and in expectation of prompt reports on the part of the organizers, we remain, yours fraternally,

The National Executive Committee,
S. L. P.,
HENRY KUHN, Secy.

Connecticut.

MERIDEN, March 4.—On the 28th of last February an American branch was organized at the Alhambra Hall. Having failed several times to organize a branch, we sent for our comrade, Mr. Chas. E. Patrich, of New Britain, and with his kind assistance succeeded at last; after we once get started, Meriden will no longer be ignorant as to what Socialism is and means. Having succeeded in organizing a branch, Socialism will succeed at last. Stick to it, and never give it up, as we are all fighting for Life, Liberty, and Humanity, that is our motto. Our first meeting will take place on March 11th, as we do not expect our charter much before that. We hope to be able to give still better reports in future.

Maryland and District of Columbia.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—A convention of the Socialist Labor party for the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia was held at the Labor Lyceum in Baltimore on Sunday afternoon, March 6. Delegates were present from Washington, Canton and the American and German branches of Section Baltimore. No delegates appeared from Hagerstown.

Comrade Golden, of Section Baltimore, was elected chairman, and Comrade Pierce, of Washington, acted as secretary. After approving the action of the several Sections in locating the State Committee at Washington, the convention proceeded to consider plans for agitation. Owing to the probable financial ability of the Sections of Maryland and Washington to keep an organizer permanently in the field, it was decided to instruct the State Committee of Virginia for the purpose of determining if an agreement could not be reached whereby the Comrades in Maryland, Virginia and Washington would guarantee enough weekly subscriptions to keep an organizer permanently at the business of instructing the working class in those two States in the principles of Socialism, the organizer to devote half of his time to each State.

The party press and tactics were then considered. A resolution was unanimously adopted indorsing the official organs of the Socialist Labor party, declaring the utmost confidence in the National Executive Committee, and emphatically upholding the tactics of the party and the attitude of the party press.

The State Committee was instructed to issue a manifesto to the proletariat of Maryland, said manifesto to present the salient features of Socialism and call attention to the fact that the world-wide movement of the capitalist class to make it impossible for the working class to seize the powers of government had reached Maryland in the shape of a clause in the new charter for the city of Baltimore, in which clause the capitalist Legislature at Annapolis has raised the property qualification so that now no one shall be eligible for the office of Mayor of Baltimore who has not paid taxes on at least two thousand dollars' worth of property for two years prior to his election.

After resolving to have the literature for the State bear the label of the International Typographical Union and the Pressmen's Union, the convention adjourned.

JULIAN PIERCE, Secy.

Massachusetts.

LAWRENCE, March 7.—A letter from Lawrence might be of interest to the readers of THE PEOPLE. As we are progressing so nicely, we want all to know about it. Having secured permanent headquarters in the central building on the main street of our city, Branches 2 and 3 now propose to carry on a vigorous campaign all summer, and prepare for the fall campaign, and show all comrades that we are going to do our share here for the 100,000 for 1898.

We have a nice library, and all the leading Socialist papers and some from England, pictures of Marx and Lasalle decorate the walls, and the crimson banner of International Socialism occupies a conspicuous position, so that when any comrade from out of town comes to our city he will know where to find us. We shall be more than pleased to have such visitors call on us. The best news of all is that we have nothing but class-conscious members; all others who apply and do not agree we consider better on the outside until they do. In closing we send greetings to all comrades, and that the good work go on.

BOSTON.—Old Franklin Schoolhouse, Wednesday evening, March 16th, lecture by Thomas A. Hickey, of New York. Subject: "Errors of Debsism."

Michigan.

DETROIT, March 9.—The following call for a meeting was sent out for the first time to the Jewish workers of this city:

MASS MEETING

will be held at Craft' Hall, 213 Gratiot avenue, Sunday March 6th, under the auspices of the Socialist Labor party. Subject: "Socialism." German and English speakers will address the meeting.

Friends:—Day by day the people see their liberties slipping away from their grasp, and the conditions of life becoming harder; they see value of every kind diminishing, save those controlled by monopoly, and the wealth that was theirs, passing by skilful political manœuvres into the hands of their oppressors. They see contraction of industry that always is followed and must be followed by contraction of the currency, throwing thousands of men out of employment, and reducing the masses to a condition of slavery; they also see that the government of the country has become an instrument of oppression in the hands of the capitalist.

Under such circumstances there is only one thing to be done, and that is to readjust measures and systems to these changed conditions of social and industrial life that will break the power of monopoly and give the people industrial as well as political freedom. Come and bring your friends.

New Jersey.

HOBOKEN, March 8.—The Branches Hoboken of Section Hudson County of the S. L. P. held their city and ward nomination convention on Thursday, March 3, for the annual charter election to be held on Tuesday, April 12th.

The following comrades were nominated:

For Recorder—Henry Schrock.
For Water Registrar—Fred Voss.
For Water Commissioner—Aug. E. Schroeder.

First Ward Nominations:

Councilman—Henry Schmidt.
Tax Commissioner—Chas. Toepfer.
" " Gustav Widmayer.
Commissioner of Appeals—Claus Eichler.

Committee to Fill Vacancies:

Comrades C. Abs, N. Deitrich and F. Mende.

Third Ward Nominations:

Councilman—Henry Kitz.
Tax Commissioner—Franz Schleman.
Tax Commissioner—Arthur Mende.
Commissioner of Appeals—Herman Landwehr.
Constable—Fred Mende.
Justice of the Peace—Otto Windfuhr.
Justice of the Peace—Edward Jacob.

Fouth Ward Nominations:

Councilman—George Bleasby.
Tax Commissioner—Fred W. Reumschussel.
Tax Commissioner—John Bischoff.
Commissioner of Appeals—John B. Gross.
Constable—Chas. Peters.

No nominations in the Second and Fifth Wards. Lack of candidates.

Days of Registry—Tuesday, March 15th, from 1 to 9 p. m.; Tuesday, March 22d, from 1 to 9 p. m.

Day of Election—Tuesday, April 12th. Polls open from 6 a. m. to 7 p. m.

New York.

The 9th Assembly District, S. L. P., Borough of Manhattan, has arranged a mass meeting to be held on Monday, March 14th, 8 P. M., Utah House, corner of 25th street and 8th avenue. On this occasion a free lecture by Comrade H. Carless; subject, "When Prosperity Will Come," will be delivered and illustrated by gorgeous stereopticon views. Pictures of machinery and social conditions will be displayed during the lecture.

Regular meeting of the General Committee of Section Greater New York,

From April 1, 1898,

the Subscription price of THE PEOPLE will be reduced to

50 Cents a Year,

6 months, 25 Cents. Single copies, 2 Cents.

Subscribers, who have paid in advance, will get their terms prolonged or can have two copies sent till subscription expires. In case the latter is wanted, INFORM US.

Subscribers, who on April 1st are in arrears, **will be stricken.**

Comrades! Here is your chance to enlarge the circulation of THE PEOPLE. **Use the opportunity!**

S. L. P., will be held on Saturday, March 12th, 8 P. M., at the Labor Lyceum, 64 East Fourth street, New York. Delegates should not fail to attend.

For the General Committee,
L. ABELSON, Organizer.

West Side Districts. Free lectures on Socialism, every 2nd and 4th Sunday, 8 P. M., at Narragansett Hotel, 456 W. 40th street.

Programme of lectures for March and April 1898:

March 13......St. Simon and Baboeuf
Lecturer, James Allman.
March 27..Why we indorse the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance.
Lecturer, Thomas Hickey.
April 10........China and Capitalism
Lecturer, Chas. Matchett.
April 24...............The Proletariat
Lecturer, A. S. Brown.

Questions will be answered after the lecture, but must be confined to the subject.

Lectures in German every 1st and 3rd Sunday at the West Side Union Hotel, 342 West 42nd street.

New York Socialist Cycle Club was organized Saturday, March 5th, at 64 E. 4th street, with 15 members. It purposes to spread Socialist agitation. Temporary officers were elected. The election of permanent officers will take place on Saturday, March 12th, 8 P. M. Comrades asked to join.

ALB. DELZ, Sec'y.

Socialist Labor Party, 18th Assembly District of Greater New York. Sunday evening lectures, free to everybody, at Stuyvesant Hall, 351 East 17th street, near 1st avenue, New York city.

Business meeting every Thursday, 8 p. m., at 246 1st avenue, between 14th and 15th streets. Come and join.

Programme of lectures for March:

March 13—"Origin of the Capitalist System." N. T. Stone.
March 20—"The Proletariat." A. S. Brown.
March 27—"The Morals of Our Age." S. Berlin.

Lectures commence promptly at 8 p. m.

Questions will be answered after the lecture, but must be confined to the subject.

Brooklyn.—Lectures and discussions on political, social and economic questions every Sunday evening, 8 p. m., at Club House, 887 Myrtle avenue:

March 13—"Trades Unions." B. Hughes.
March 20—"Foot Pounds." Ch. Teche.
March 27—"The Proletariat." A. S. Brown.

Questions will be answered after the lecture, but must be confined to the subject.

GLOVERSVILLE.—In order to enlarge the circulation of THE PEOPLE and to make our friends and sympathizers acquainted with purely scientific Socialism and the uncompromising tactics of the S. L. P., our Section decided to send for four weeks to a number of addresses our party organ. This is at the same time an invitation to subscribe. Some one of our party members will call on the receivers at the end of this month. Orders will also be taken any evening in the Labor Lyceum, 8 Fremont street.

Tuesday, March the 22nd, Lucien Sanial, of New York, will give a lecture in Gloversville. The name of the hall where he speaks will be published in next week's issue, also the subject. Admission is free to all.

Buffalo, N. Y.

The monthly joint meeting of the Section Buffalo, S. L. P., will be held this Sunday, March 13, at 2:30 p. m., in Labor Lyceum, 550 Broadway. The important business to be transacted requires the presence of every member of all branches.

In the evening of the same day, at 8 P. M. sharp, the American Branch S. L. P. will hold in the same hall a discussion meeting. Subject: "The Cuban Question from a Socialist Standpoint." Everybody welcome.

For the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the revolutions of 1848, and of the 27th anniversary of the Paris Commune, the Central Committee, S. L. P., has arranged a grand ball, with lectures, singing, dancing, etc., to be held Saturday, March 19th, at 8 P. M., in Miller's Harmonia Hall, 264 Genesee street. For the English lecture is secured our veteran Comrade Lucien Sanial, of New York. The German speaker will be Combrade K. Ibsen, of Cleveland, O. Tickets, admitting gentleman and lady, 25 cents. Whoever of our Buffalo comrades and friends has not got those tickets yet, not only for their own use, but for sale, should get them at the Labor Lyceum as soon as possible.

Pennsylvania.

BLAIR COUNTY, March 4.—It will be of some interest to the comrades througnout the land to know that, although very quiet, yet Blair County Section is not dead altogether. One not acquainted with the conditions here, does not know the difficulty which confronts the movement in this inland town wholly controlled by the P. R. R.; but in spite of the apparently insurmountable obstacles the comrades have shaken themselves from their lethargy and adopted the tactics of activity. Sunday, the 20th of February, we had Comrade John R. Root, of Pittsburg, here, the annoucement being only a verbal one exceeded our most sincere expectations. He spoke of the necessity of a class-conscious political organization before they can ever hope of bettering their conditions and finally emancipate themselves from wage-slavery. Comrade Root has a pleasing appearance and is an able expounder of the cause; the applause that he received showed that his speech was very much appreciated by the audience; three new members being the result of the meeting. During the five years Section Blair County has been in existence, not a line to my knowledge has ever appeared in THE PEOPLE as to our progress, or retrogress would be more proper, for we have experienced them both. Here especially the work of agitation has been done, and the expenses borne by a small band of faithful workers. We appeal to the friends who have received the truth and knowledge of Socialism to abandon their petty prejudices that keep them away from the meetings and show themselves up in their true color, to come to our aid in this our struggle for emancipation. Now is the time you are needed, the party canot afford to lose one convert. You have not forgotten the wrongs that were perpetrated on one of our most able and active comrades during the Presidential campaign when he was discharged and forced to face very risky conditions with his family—starve or steal—but was successful in getting another job after some months of worry in idleness, for simply being a Socialist. Such hideous outrages committed by the hypocritical "law and order" capitalist class should serve as a spur to work more energetically and more indefatigably for the overthrow of the capitalist system with all its wrong-doings and injustices. We have arranged matters with the State Committee on a lecture tour by Comrade Mrs. Martha Moore Avery. Sections throughout the State should take an interest in this grand opportunity.

PARLIAMENTS OF LABOR.

General Executive Board, S. T. & L. A.

At the last meeting August Waldinger was chairman.

A committee from the Hat Makers' Union, Newark, N. J., was granted the floor and stated that they had reorganized and they desired the old charter. They have a membership of 150 at present. Granted.

A committee representing the Local Joint Executive Board of Ind. Bakers' Unions appeared relative to the label. They claimed that many thousands of labels issued by D. A. No. 8, were still unused, and that the plates for the S. T. & L. A. label were quite expensive. It was resolved to notify the L. J. E. B. that under present circumstances the G. E. B. was bound by the referendum vote recently had on the label, and that no doubt the next convention would settle the matter.

A committee from the Prog. Rolled Cigarette Makers' Union was admitted relative to the label. They acquiesced in the use of the G. E. B. label, and same was granted.

It was announced that the speech of Comrade De Leon to the New Bedford strikers would be published in pamphlet form and orders should be forwarded.

The matter of the next Convention was then broached, and it was decided to proceed to nominate cities in which to hold the same. New York was nominated, but withdrawn. Then followed Buffalo, N. Y., Philadelphia, Pa., and Newark, N. J. On vote both Buffalo and Philadelphia were ordered to a referendum vote. A discussion ensued as to date. May, June, July 4th, and September 19th being named. On vote July 4th and September 19th were ordered to a referendum. July 4th was proposed, because it being a holiday, less time is lost. September 19th was proposed, because of cooler weather. The referendum vote on city and date must be in by May 5th, 1898.

The secretary was further instructed to begin his yearly report.

N. Y. Central Labor Federation, D. A. No. 1, invited the G. E. B. to its Ninth Anniversary on March 13th, at 5.30 P. M., 64 E. 4th street. Accepted.

Charters were granted the United Broad Silk Weavers' Union, Silk City Mixed Alliance, Paterson, N. J., and German Bohemian Textile Alliance, New Bedford, Mass.

Jere O'Fihelley, Abington, Mass.; John F. Conley, Pittsburg, Pa.; James Waugh, Blocton, Ala.; R. A. Statham, Cardiff, Jefferson Co., Ala.; Geo. Webb, New Decatur, Ala., and Alex. B. McCulloch, Manchester, Va., requested organizing material.

A complaint of the N. Y. German Cooks and Pastry Cooks to the N. Y. Central Labor Federation, D. A. No. 1, because they alleged that their members were not employed at the N. Y. Volks-Zeitung" festival, had been referred to the G. E. B. It was resolved to request the Board of Directors of said paper, to in future also contract for the employment of those members at festivals.

Very interesting letters were read from Alb. Schmatz, Louisville, Ky., and a L. A. will be organized there shortly.

Peter Schwjete, St. Louis, Mo., requested by instruction of the State Committee S. L. P. the use of the label on a publication called "Arm and Hammer." He was informed that the employees would have to organize a L. A. or join one of the existing Mixed Alliances before the label could be granted.

M. Weber, Buffalo, N. Y., reported good progress, and that he will speak on March 19th at Erie, and try to organize a L. A. He will also try to reorganize the Section, S. L. P. The employees of the Polish party paper "Sila" joined the Mixed Alliance and a member-at-large was accordingly transferred. The said paper was granted the label of the S. T. & L. A.

N. Y. Central Labor Federation, D. A. No. 1, reported that its Arbitration Committee had made strenuous efforts to organize the employees of Leopold Miller & Son, Cigarette Makers of the "Leroy" brand, but failed. They had consequently declared the concern as non-union and desired the action endorsed. Granted.

Geo. Dubois, Albany, N. Y., reported that the organization is making good progress.

M. Keller, D. A. 12, Philadelphia, Pa., reported good progress, and that an agitation is being pushed among the leather workers at Gloversville and Johnstown, N. Y.

Henry Wehner, D. A. No. 10, Boston, Mass., reported that D. A. No. 8 had donated $10 to the New Bedford weavers, and Bakers' and Confectioners' L. A. No. 2, $25.

Tailors' Prog. Union No. 11, N. Y., donated $5 for the same purpose.

Shirt Ironers and Laundry Workers, Philadelphia, Pa., desired to rejoin the S. T. & L. A., and this was granted.

The "Home Study Publications" of Scranton, Pa., requested a list of unions. This was not acceded to.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 16, 8 P. M., 64 E. 4th street.

D. A. No. 1.

Delegate J. Langhard, of the Progress Club, was chairman at last Sunday's meeting of the N. Y. Central Labor Federation, D. A. No. 1., S. T. & L. A. and delegate L. Pomrantz, of the Pressmen and Feeders' Union, was vice-chairman.

A complaint by C. Perenz against Waiters' Alliance Liberty for expelling him was referred to a special committee for investigation.

International Pianomakers' Union send John Kohrman as a delegate. The Credentials' Committee reported unfavorably because the candidate acknowledged to be a member of the Democratic party. The report was sustained and the credentials referred back to the union.

N. Y. Socialist Literary Society invited the body to attend its Masked Ball on March 19th, at Webster Hall. While the invitation was accepted, the Society was notified that the hall was non-union.

Gen. Ex. Board, S. T. & L. A. notified the body relative to the committees' decision in the appeal of Waiters' Alliance Liberty and endorsing the same.

Arbitration Committee reported that baker boss Kruse promised to send his workmen to the Union during this week, and hence action was deferred until next Sunday.

Organization Committee reported making good progress.

Empire City Lodge, Machinists, reported donating $2 to the New Bedford strikers.

Arrangements' Committee for the Ninth Anniversary celebration of this body, this Sunday, reported that the Carl Sahm Club had offered an orchestra of 12 men. All unions are requested to forward their flags with pole during the week to 64 E. 4th street.

Carl Sahm Club reported having furnished an orchestra gratis for the mass meeting of the Working Women's Society, at the Grand Central Palace. They donated $5 to the New Bedford strikers. Three members were expelled for violation of the constitution.

THE DAILY PEOPLE $50,000 FUND.

Amount Pledged down to February 9th, 1898.

$4,575.

The following amounts have been paid down to March 2d, 1898, incl.:
Previously acknowledged...$2517 76
Patrick Murphy, Brooklyn, N. Y., $10; Thos. O'Shaughnessy, Brooklyn, N. Y., $6........16 00
Total...$2533 76

☞ Pledgers will please keep in mind the dates on which their payments fall due, as per printed list, and remit promptly. If any error appears on the list, correct with equal promptness.

THE DAILY PEOPLE COMMITTEE.
184 William St., N. Y.

Bartenders' Union No. 1 reported that its Secretary Paul Reichenbecker had called upon boss Krieger, 231 E. 33rd street, who retracted his utterances against union labor in writing.

Waiters' Alliance Liberty reported that they had expelled a member for being in arrearage with dues and for violation of the constitution.

Int. Pianomakers' Union reported that arrangements will be made this week to organize the Bronx Borough. The collections for the New Bedford strikers are to be called in. The prospect is that $25 have been realized.

Silver Workers' Prot. Ass. reported that they have called in the subscription lists for Friday night. According to short reports something like $30 will accumulate.

Pressmen and Feeders' Union initiated new members. $10 were donated to the "Neue Zeit."

Prog. Typographical Union No. 83 donated $20 to the "Neue Zeit."

United Marquetrie Workers will hold an important meeting Monday at 64 E. 4th street, and the Secretary is requested to attend.

Prog. Rolled Cigarette Makers' Union reported that 17 members who refused to obey the decision and not make cigars at the strike factory of Sidenberg were summarily expelled. It was also announced that these expelled members had organized an opposition union under the tuition of boss Sidenberg. He should ask the aid of Leopold Miller. Relative to the trouble in Sidenberg's shop and for the purpose of protecting the interest of the Prog. Rolled Cigarette Makers' Union, delegates E. Bohm, A. Waldinger and P. Lustig were elected a special committee.

The chairman thereupon presented the banner won by the Bohemian Butchers' Union to its delegate who received same with thanks and stated that its first public display would be at the Ninth Anniversary celebration of the C. L. F.

Swedish Machinists' Union reported that it will call in its subscription lists for the New Bedford strikers and report next meeting.

United Maccaroni Workers reported making good progress.

During the debate on the Workmen's Educational Society non-union employees a member of Bartender Union No. 1 named J. Nicholous stated that he was employed at same place until it was found out that he had joined the above union. Then he was discharged. The organizations were again urged not to buy any shares or donate monies to that Society.

D. A. 49.

The regular meeting of D. A. 49 was held on Friday evening, March 4th, with D. M. W. Daniel De Leon at the capitol.

Roll call showed all officers present, except Worthy Foreman Murphy who was detailed to the mass meeting of the Knitting Workers and Outside Esquire Kops who was detailed to the Shoe Fitters' meeting.

Credentials received from Fred Guilmann, Bakers' Union, L. A. 84, and Wm. Clough, Broad Silk Weavers. They were admitted and obligated.

Reports of officers:

D. M. W. reported having spoken at a mass meeting of Broad Silk Weavers on Thursday evening, Feb. 24th, and at the conclusion a local of that industry was organized. Had also organized three locals of weavers in New Bedford, Mass.

District Secretary reported he had attended meetings of the West Side Agitation Committtee, and they will arrange for a mass meeting in the near future, and expect to organize a trade or mixed local. Received word from the Glove Cutters' Union, who would like to have an English and German speaker to explain the aims and objects of the Alliance.

Distributed circulars for the Pioneer Alliance, who would hold a meeting for shoeworkers on March 5th. Had succeeded in settling the strike of S. Weil's factory, where members of L. A.'s 122, 298 and 2,394 were out. The lasters receive an advance of 25 per cent. and sewers 20 per cent., notwithstanding the fact that Organizer Clark, of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, interfered, and a number of members of his organization applied for positions. A more detailed account of this trouble will appear later. Had attended the mass meeting of the Longshoremen and Seamen's Union, with Comrades Murphy and Lissauer, who explained the aims and objects of the Alliance. McHugh and Wilson, of the American Longshoremans' Union, who had been challenged to debate, failed, as usual with men of that stamp, to put in an appearance. This union will hold a meeting on March 6th to consider the advisability of applying for a charter to the S. T. & L. A.

Secretary requested that the district take steps to create a special fund for agitation purposes.

Communications received from Riverside Association, L. A. 43, of Yonkers, referred to the Secretary with instructions to go to Yonkers on Monday evening. One from Shoe Fitters' Union requesting information on the S. T. & L. A. Secretary had sent Comrade Kaps to their meeting to give the desired information. One from Comrade Moren, of the City Ex. Com. of the S. L. P., in answer to inquiry of the Secretary. Referred to Comrade Vogt to make report at our next meeting, when further action will be taken. One from Ernest Bohm, Secretary of D. A. No. 1, in relation to Joint D. A. meetings, wherein they deny being responsible for their locals voting against the meetings of the Joint D. A.'s. Received and filed. One from L. A. 2394 inviting the delegates to their ninth annual ball on Sat. evening, March 12, at Baumgartner's Military Hall, corner Leonard and Scholes streets, Brooklyn. Received and accepted. One from Musical Protective Alliance, L. A. 1028, complaining against Carl Sahm and Progressive Musical Union of Brooklyn, who failed to attend the meetings of the Joint Executive Board of the musical locals, which had been established by the G. E. B. Secretary instructed to bring the matter before the G. E. B. One from Comrade Chas. Wicklien, requesting the Secretary to call at the West Side Union Hotel on Feb. 28th. Attended to by the Secretary.

Secretary was instructed to write to the G. E. B. and inquire what district the Prog. Musical Union, L. A. 115, was affiliated with.

Secretary was instructed to look for a hall for the district to hold meetings in, as the present place was too small to hold the delegates.

On motion it was resolved to request the locals and members of the same to contribute to a fund for agitation purposes.

L. A. No. 11 reported that they had held a mass meeting on Feb. 28, which was well attended.

Had contributed $5 to the New Bedford strikers and $3 to the May Day conference.

L. A. 68 contributed $2 to the May Day conference, and appointed a committee to act with committee from L. A. 11 to visit the Journeymen Tailors.

L. A. 84, Bakers' Union, had voted for an interchange of cards with the International Bakers' Union.

L. A. 122, Shoe Lasters, reported they had contributed $3 to the May Day conference.

L. A. 109, Pioneer Alliance, elected delegates to the May Day conference. Will hold a mass meeting on March 5th for shoeworkers. Expect soon to organize the railroad men as the locals in the K. of L. are no earthly use. D. M. W. Collins, of D. A. 75, K. of L., who had hobnobbed around the political parties during the last campaign indorsing first one and then another, sent a committee to the Mayor and the Corporation Council requesting them to see that the ordinance regulating the speed of the trolley cars was not violated. This was enforced at the expense of the employees. They were compelled to work overtime for which they did not receive extra pay. Collins then called on the officers of the trolley company, stating that they were very well satisfied with the company, and to complain about the men having to work overtime, and Mr. Johnson told him to withdraw the complaint from the Corporation Council and the men could get through on time though they had to violate that ordinance. The complaint was withdrawn.

L. A. 298, N. Y. Shoemakers, reported that their members were well satisfied with the settlement of the strike in Weil's factory. They had also gained a number of new members.

Bronx Borough Labor Club reported that they had been disappointed in the speaker for the 28th. He failed to attend. They will hold an agitation meeting on March 11th for railroad men. Comrade Vogt was detailed to speak there.

L. A. 141 reported that their mass meeting was a grand success. They gained twelve new members. They will hold a mass meeting uptown and request a German, Bohemian and English speaker. Secretary was instructed to take notice.

United Broad Silk Weavers reported progress and expect large increase in membership at their meeting on the 9th.

L. A. 1563, Excelsior Labor Club, initiated six new members. Elected delegates to the May Day conference. Will hold an entertainment and reception in the N. Y. Labor Lyceum on April 16th. Next meeting will be held at 23 Duane street on March 9th.

L. A. 1028 increasing in membership, and hope that the district will see that the trouble with the musical unions is settled one way or the other.

L. A. 2394, Goodyear Turn and Welt Shoemakers, reported initiating new members, and that the superintendent of one of the large factories in Brooklyn was trying to win the members away from the union by establishing a sick and death benefit association. They do not think he will succeed.

W. L. BROWER, Secy.

DR. C. L. FURMAN,
DENTIST,
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Various prizes will be given away.

Bicyclists, Attention!
All cyclets of the S. L. P. and readers of THE PEOPLE are invited to attend a meeting of the Socialist Cycle Club to be held on
March 12th, at 64 E. 4th Street,
where an election of Officers will be held and applications for membership will be received.
ALBERT DELZ, Sec'y,
318 219 West 18th St.

Trades and Societies Calendar

Standing advertisements of Trades Unions and other Societies (not exceeding five lines) will be inserted under this heading hereafter at the rate of $5.00 per annum.

Organizations should not lose such an opportunity of advertising their places of meetings.

Carl Sahm Club (Musicians Union. Meetings every Tuesday at 10 a. m., at 64 East 4th street, New York Labor Lyceum. Business Secretary: Frei.

Central Labor Federation of New York (S. T. & L. A., D. A. No. 1). Meets at 2.30 every Sunday afternoon at 64 East 4th street, New York City. All bona-fide trade and labor Unions should be represented. Communications are to be sent to the corresponding Secretary, Ernest Bohm, 64 East 4th street, New York City.

Cigarmakers' Progressive International Union No. 90. Office and Employment Bureau: 64 East 4th street.—District I (Bohemian), 324 East 71st street, every Saturday at 8 p. m.—District II (German), at 213 Forsyth St., meets every Saturday at 8 p. m.—District III, meets at 1527 avenue A, every Saturday at 8 p. m.—District IV, meets at 342 West 42nd street, every Saturday at 8 p. m.—The Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday at 1422 2nd avenue, at 8 p. m.

Empire City Lodge (Machinists), meets every 2d and 4th Wednesday evening at the Labor Lyceum, 64 East 4th street.
273 Secretary: PETER STAPLE.

German Waiters' Union of New York, Office: 385 Bowery, Union Hall, 1st floor. Meetings every Friday at 4 p. m. Board of Supervisors meets every Wednesday at 4 p. m. at the same hall.

Musical Protective Alliance No. 1028, D. A. 49, S. T. & L. A., Headquarters 79 E. 4th street. Meetings every Friday at 12 o'clock noon. Fred. Hartmann, Pres.; Fred. Woll, corr. Sec'y, 79 E. 4th St. J. S. Krieg, Business agent.

Section Essex County, S. L. P., meets the first Sunday in each month at 3 p. m. in the hall of "Essex County Socialist Club," 78 Springfield Ave., Newark, N. J.

Skandinavian Section, S. L. P. Meets 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month at 10 o'clock a. m., at Schuler's Hall, 231-233 East 38th St., New York City. Subscription orders taken for the Scand. Socialist Weekly, SCAND. AM. ARBETAREN.

Socialist Science Club, S. L. P., 34th & 35th A. D. S. E. Cor. of 3d Av. and 149th St. Open every evening. Regular business meeting every Friday.

Progressive Clothing Cutters & Trimmers Union, L. A. 68 of S. T. & L. A.—Headquarters, 64 East 4th street, Labor Lyceum.—Regular meeting every Thursday evening, at 8 P. M. 303

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